

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Flame-retardant superabsorbent polymer (SAP) particles comprising a superabsorbent polymer particle and a dried residue of an aqueous inorganic flame retardant solution in an amount sufficient to render the superabsorbent particle flame-retardant.

2. (Original) The SAP particles as in claim 1, wherein the inorganic flame retardant includes at least one phosphorus-containing flame retardant.

3. (Original) The SAP particles as in claim 2, wherein the inorganic flame retardant is at least one selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid and sodium salt derivatives thereof, phosphorous acid and sodium salt derivatives thereof, ammonium orthophosphate, ammonium hypophosphate, ammonium hydrogen phosphate, ammonium dihydrogen phosphate, ammonium hypophosphite, and ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate.

4. (Currently Amended) The SAP particles as in claim 1, wherein the inorganic flame retardant is present in an amount of between about 1 to about ~~400~~ 500 wt.%, based on the total weight of the flame-retardant SAP particles.

5 - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of making flame-retardant superabsorbent polymer (SAP) particles comprising hydrating SAP particles with an aqueous inorganic flame-retardant solution in an amount sufficient to render the SAP particles flame-retardant when dried.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, which further comprises drying the hydrated SAP particles to remove water and leave a dried residue of the inorganic flame-retardant solution physically within the SAP particles.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein the inorganic flame retardant includes at least one phosphorus-containing flame retardant.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the inorganic flame retardant is at least one selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid and sodium salt derivatives thereof, phosphorous acid and sodium salt derivatives thereof, ammonium orthophosphate, ammonium hypophosphate, ammonium hydrogen phosphate, ammonium dihydrogen phosphate, ammonium hypophosphite, and ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the inorganic flame retardant is present in an amount of between about 1 to about 500 wt.%, based on the total weight of the flame-retardant SAP particles.

17 -33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the flame-retardant solution is present in an amount between about 25 wt.% to about 200 wt.%.

35. (New) Flame-retardant superabsorbent polymer (SAP) particles comprising a superabsorbent polymer particle and a dried residue of an aqueous inorganic flame retardant solution in an amount between about 25 wt.% to about 200 wt.% sufficient to render the superabsorbent particle flame-retardant.

36. (New) The SAP particles as in claim 35, wherein the inorganic flame retardant includes at least one phosphorus-containing flame retardant.

37. (New) The SAP particles as in claim 36, wherein the inorganic flame retardant is at least one selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid and sodium salt derivatives thereof, phosphorous acid and sodium salt derivatives thereof, ammonium orthophosphate, ammonium hypophosphate, ammonium hydrogen phosphate, ammonium dihydrogen phosphate, ammonium hypophosphite, and ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate.